



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Economic Development Committee

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the **Board of Selectmen** within the Town of Upton (Town), will hold an open public comment period on the proposed **Economic Development Strategy Plan (EDSP)** developed with the assistance of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

The public comment period will be open from **February 1, 2021 until February 26, 2021**. You will find the draft version of the **EDSP** posted on the Economic Development Page at <https://www.uptonma.gov/economic-development/files/edc-draft-plan>.

Public input can be provided to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) via email at edc@uptonma.gov. Please submit feedback as an attached Word document or as text within the body of an email, with "EDSP" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. Parties who are unable to submit electronic feedback should mail submissions to: Office of the Town Manager, 1 Main Street, Upton, Massachusetts 01568. All feedback must be submitted by **12:00 pm on Friday, February 26, 2021**.

A copy of the Notice of Public Hearing and the proposed plan may be viewed on the Town's website or obtained from the Town Clerk, at 508-529-3566.

February 1, 2021

Introduction and Background

The Town of Upton has partnered with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to develop an Economic Development Strategy Plan (EDSP) between 2018 and 2020. This document establishes baseline existing conditions driving the town's economy and provides an action plan to support economic growth in Upton. Building off an existing body of work and utilizing the most recent data plus input from the community, CMRPC has been able to establish a proposed strategic plan for enhancing local economic development in Upton. This strategic plan includes specific goals to help local stakeholders and town leaders leverage the town's existing historical, cultural, and economic assets.

This EDSP is the culmination of discussions between the Economic Development Committee, Town staff, and the CMRPC Project Team. To establish base line conditions an extensive data collection, mapping, and analysis process took place. The Project Team worked with local residents as part of the Upton Center Revitalization Project to identify a community vision for Upton's future. Subsequently the town's opportunities and challenges for economic development were identified. A particular focus was paid to enhancing Upton's downtown and on simultaneous efforts to redevelop and re-zone the town center which have complemented strategic economic planning.

An electronic version of the plan may be accessed at: <https://www.uptonma.gov/economic-development/files/edc-draft-plan>.

This EDSP is organized in three major parts:

Part I provides the historical perspective of the town. The historic character of the town is discussed along with a brief description of historic buildings and summary information from other plans that have been prepared previously. Part I provides the context to understand the detailed economic information included in Part II and also informs the Goals included in Part III.

Part II includes a detailed Economic Analysis based on extensive research performed by the CMRPC Team. This analysis also informs the Goals included in Part III.

Part III includes several Goals identified by the Economic Development Committee. These include short term, long term and stretch goals. A rationale is included for all goals.

The public comment period will be open from February 1 to February 26, 2021. Once all public input has been collected and evaluated, a final version will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for formal adoption by the Town.